

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-44 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are independent.

§ 102 REJECTION – EVANS

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 11-12, 16-19, 25-31, 33-35, 37-39 and 41-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Evans et al. (US Patent 6,577,746, referred to as “Evans”). *See Final Office Action, item 4, pages 4-8.* Applicant respectfully traverses.

Applicant notes that the US filing date of Evans is December 28, 1999. Attached hereto is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 to perfect the claim of invention prior to December 28, 1999. Also attached are supporting evidentiary documents that establish the prior invention and due diligence. The Declaration and the supporting documents could not be presented earlier since Evans is cited for the first time in the Final Office Action.

Since the subject matter of the claims were invented prior to the US filing date of Evans, Evans does not qualify as prior art. Therefore, the rejection of the claims based on Evans cannot stand. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-2, 6-7, 11-12, 16-19, 25-31, 33-35, 37-39 and 41-43 based on Evans be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – EVANS, KENNER

Claims 3-5, 8-10 and 13-15 stand under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Evans in view of Kenner et al. (US Patent 5,956,716, referred to as “Kenner”). *See Final Office Action, Item 6, pages 9-10.* Applicant respectfully traverses.

As demonstrated above, Evans does not qualify as prior art. Therefore, the rejection of claims based on Evans, at least in part, cannot stand. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 3-5, 8-10 and 13-15 based on Evans and Kenner be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – EVANS, RHOADS

Claims 20-24 stand under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Evans in view of Rhoads (US Patent 5,850,481). *See Final Office Action, Item 7, pages 10-12.* Applicant respectfully traverses.

As demonstrated above, Evans does not qualify as prior art. Therefore, the rejection of claims based on Evans, at least in part, cannot stand. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 20-24 based on Evans and Rhoads be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – EVANS, GODLEWSKI

Claims 32, 36, 40 and 44 stand under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Evans in view of Godlewski et al. (US Patent 3,852,088, referred to as “Godlewski”). *See Final Office Action, Item 8, pages 12-13.* Applicant respectfully traverses.

As demonstrated above, Evans does not qualify as prior art. Therefore, the rejection of claims based on Evans, at least in part, cannot stand. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 32, 36, 40 and 44 based on Evans and Godlewski be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a two (2) months extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee is attached hereto.

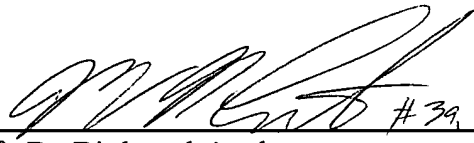
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.


Date: January 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Rule 131 Declaration and documentary evidence